

Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project (HELP)
Terms of Reference (TOR)
Position: Environmental Specialist

Key Information

Name of the Project	Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project (HELP)
Name of the Package	Environmental Specialist
Package No.	S-3
Organization	Department of Environment (DoE)
Selection Method	Individual Consultant Selection (ICS)
Market Approach	National-Open
Contract Type	Time-Based
Duration of the Contract	3 months
Duty Station	HQ (PMU) and Project Area

1. Background

Bangladesh has been coping with the sudden and large inflow of the Rohingya population displaced from Myanmar since 2017. The United Nations (UN) has described the Rohingya as “the most persecuted minority in the world”. The nearly one million Displaced Rohingya Population (DRP) or Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs, as is termed by GOB) reside in 33 extremely congested camps designated by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in the Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas in Cox’s Bazar district – Bangladesh hosts the largest camp across the globe. The Bangladeshi host population in the two upazilas are the poorest in the district, with high socio-economic vulnerability.

The extended presence of the DRP puts additional pressure on already poor areas, affecting livelihoods, services, and social cohesion. The DRP outnumber the host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf by a factor of three. Hosting the DRP continues to stretch service delivery of the GoB, including for host communities, amidst decreasing humanitarian resources. The host communities perceive the impact of DRP on their livelihoods as predominantly negative. Perceived increases in crime and security concerns, decrease in daily wage and pressure on the environment, including deforestation and water source depletion, have been reported as sources of tension.

Even as the humanitarian emergency evolves to a protracted crisis, the GoB has demonstrated its continued commitment and leadership to support the DRP. Basic assistance in the form of food, shelters, and essential services have been provided using government systems and with support from the international community. Development partners, including the World Bank, have supported the construction of quality infrastructure, including cluster homes, disaster shelters, road networks, embankments, community gardens, warehouses, waste management systems, and electrical power generation systems in the form of solar PV standalone street lighting systems, solar PV water pumping systems, and solar PV nano-grid systems. Efforts made by the GoB and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) partners, including the World Bank, have resulted in substantially improved access to WASH facilities (including functional sanitation facilities) in DRP and host communities. However, this remains an unfinished agenda with significant improvements needed in fecal sludge management systems, expansion of community facilities and drinking water supply points to address access, safety and gender violence, and solid waste management in DRP as well as host communities. In addition, lack of formal education, and weak shelter infrastructure continue to be a challenge in the Cox’s Bazar camps.

To reduce the strain on livelihoods and basic service delivery in Cox’s Bazar, the GoB has facilitated the voluntary relocation of around 30,000 DRP to Bhasan Char, an island located in the



Bay of Bengal in the Noakhali District, since 2021. The GoB has invested around US\$400 million to make the island livable, with implementation of an 11km embankment protection, 1440 housing facilities, 120 cyclone shelters, one government hospital; 29 schools and WASH facilities supported by about 1.8MWp centralized and standalone solar PV based power systems. Five UN agencies, five international NGOs, and 27 local NGOs currently operate on the island with different humanitarian interventions. Further support from the international community is still needed to strengthen basic infrastructure, especially for operations and maintenance.

Despite the GoB's continued efforts, critical challenges exist for the DRP and the host communities in fulfilling basic needs and improving livelihoods. Access to the basic services and facilities in or outside the camp areas at optimum level leads to access, safety and gender violence related issues, and expanding camp settlements, population growth, and other human activities continue to raise pressure on natural resources in Cox's Bazaar and in Bhasan Char. Challenges exist for the same basic services including roads, shelters, drainage systems, access to reliable energy, transportation and emergency evacuation, and supply chain of goods and services.

Both Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char face frequent and severe weather events. Cyclones, floods, landslides, and fires threaten lives and damage infrastructure. Recent disasters (esp. Fire events in March 2023, and Cyclone Mocha in May 2023) highlight the need for stronger shelters, improved water and sanitation systems, and better waste management. The DRP camps in Cox's Bazar face significant infrastructure and maintenance challenges, especially in water supply, waste management, electricity, and disaster risk reduction. Recent disasters like floods and fires underscore the need to enhance the structural resilience of shelters and key infrastructure.

In the backdrop of this situation and crisis prevailed in the region, Bangladesh Government with financial support from the World Bank has taken initiative to implement a project both for the host and DRP in Cox's Bazar and part of Naoakhali district titled 'Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives through a Multi-Sectoral Approach Project (HELP)' aiming to improve access to basic services and enhance disaster and climate resilience for DRP and host communities. It will focus on strengthening climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, improving basic services and disaster-resilient infrastructure, and enhancing institutional service delivery systems. The project, in fact, builds on the ongoing EMCRP project to further focus on disaster and climate resilience due to the protracted nature of the crisis and high needs of the population.

1.1. Project Component

With the Project Development Objective of improving access to basic services, and enhancing disaster and climate resilience of the host communities and Displaced Rohingya Population (DRP), the Project will perform certain activities under the following components (Table 1):

- **Component 1: Basic Services, Climate- and Disaster- Resilient Infrastructure, and Emergency Response**

This Component aims to enhance water supply and sanitation in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, focusing on both host communities and DRP camps. Implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering, it includes constructing new water schemes, rehabilitating existing infrastructure, and using solar-powered systems for climate resilience. Additionally, it will build and rehabilitate toilets, establish waste management facilities, and provide hygiene kits. The project ensures the operation and maintenance of these facilities, promoting reliable, gender-sensitive, and climate-resilient WASH services

- **Component 2: Climate and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Energy and Emergency Response**

Component 2 focuses on climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure, energy, and emergency response. It aims to improve rural infrastructure in host communities and DRP



camps by constructing and upgrading disaster shelters, rural roads, bridges, and cold storage facilities. Solar-powered streetlights and lightning protection systems will enhance safety and energy efficiency. Small-scale afforestation will help restore vegetation and improve climate resilience. The component also includes the construction of a solar power plant in Bhasan Char to provide renewable energy for daily and livelihood activities in DRP camps. This Component is implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Roads and Highways Department (RHD), and Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

- **Component 3: Strengthening Institutional Systems to Enhance Service Provision and Support Resilient Development**

Component 3 is composed of capacity building and technical assistance, host communities and DRP awareness raising and skills building programs, reinforcement of emergency management capacity, and technology-driven monitoring and evaluation and project management implemented by multiple agencies including DPHE, LGED, RHD, BPDB and involving Department of Environment (DoE) and Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD).

- **Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response.**

This will ensure provision of immediate response to an eligible crisis. In such an event, the component will contribute to immediate and effective response. Any unused balance under the other components can be reallocated to the CERC component, in the event of an emergency.

Table 1: HELP Components

#	Component
1	Resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
2	Climate and disaster resilient infrastructure, energy, and emergency response
	2.1. Rural Infrastructure Development
	2.2. Rural Roads Improvement
	2.3. Renewable Energy
3	Strengthening institutional systems to enhance service provision and support resilient development
	3.1. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
	3.2. Host Communities and FDMN Awareness Raising and Skills Building Programs
	3.3. Reinforcement of Emergency Management Capacity
	3.4. Technology-driven Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Management
4	Contingent Emergency Response

The DoE will implement activities under **Subcomponent 3.1. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance**. The project will finance a comprehensive environmental impact and damage assessment of areas affected by the DRP and support a sustainable, ecosystem-based approach to development. The activity will be carried out through a MoU with LGED as grants. The flow of funds and the responsible implementing agency will be LGED. The analysis will include the valuation of ecosystem services to underline the economic benefits of conservation and a strategic environmental assessment for aligning current and future policies, programs, and projects. A Strategic Environmental Management Plan will be developed for the ongoing management and restoration efforts to address the crisis' ecological fallout. The components would cover all upazila in Cox's Bazar district and Hatia, Subornachar & Begaumganj Upazila under Noakhali district of Bangladesh.

The DoE will carry out the four firm contract activities shown in Table 2. The four parallel studies including environmental impact and damage assessment followed by ecosystem restoration project development (S7), ecosystem valuation (S8), a detailed strategic environmental assessment and development of a strategic environmental management plan (S9), and development of knowledge

management materials for S7, S8, and S9 (S10). These assignments are expected to be implemented in a coherent manner.

Table 2: DoE's activities under HELP (Firm Services Contract)

#	Package
S7	Environmental Impact and Damage Assessment of the Rohingya inhabited area, including a project preparation for ecosystem restoration with restoration activities followed by a feasibility study
S8	Valuation of the ecosystem services of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula and other impacted areas
S9	Development of a detailed Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the existing and proposed policies, programs, and projects in the impacted area. This should include the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) with future interventions to manage and restore the environment and ecosystem
S10	Development of Knowledge Management Materials for ecosystem conservation and valuation, SEA, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

In addition, the DoE will directly implement the repairing and restoration of the ecosystem of the affected area. It includes a series of ecological restoration activities: ban fuelwood collection in the protected areas, replacement or reduction of fuelwood use for cooking, promote and conserve protected areas, research and development works, establish turtle hatchery, plant keya tree, and any other ecosystem restoration activities. Additionally, the DoE will implement awareness raising workshops and training with DRP and host communities.

1.2.Environmental Issues

The project will be implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Environmental and Social Commitment Plan; Environmental and Social Management Framework; and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be key documents for the project to adhere to.

The environmental risk of the project is substantial considering the type, scale of operation, nature, magnitude of potential environmental risks and impacts, and risk of disasters and climate, mainly fire incidents, floods, and landslides. Work at individual locations will involve small to medium scale construction work and are not supposed to have significant environmental impacts. Any project intervention in any areas of environmental and ecological sensitivity and important ecosystem and with high environmental and social risk will be screened out during screening process that also includes an exclusion list. The activities will be spread across camps in Bhasan Char, Cox's Bazar, and host communities. Work at individual location will involve small to medium scale construction work and are not supposed to have significant environmental impacts.

Although the project areas of the proposed project are highly sensitive because registered camps are in degraded forest areas including the Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary and other Reserved Forest areas, the potential environmental impacts of the activities are expected to be site-specific, limited, reversible, and mitigatable. The planned interventions under the DoE are expected to bring positive impact on environment and ecosystems.

HELP itself is classified as Category 'Substantial'. Environmental and social risks are relatively significant because of location of the project sites which are partly within protected forest area and have high population density, and potential Human Elephant Conflict (HEC), gender based violence, potential conflict with host communities, voluntary shifting/land donation etc. may arise during the implementation period. There are also high natural disaster related risks such as land

slide, flooding, soil erosion, water and soil contamination etc. The project is relevant to the Environmental and Social Standards of 1 to 7 and 10, under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.

2. Objective

The DoE intends to hire an Environmental Specialist (hereafter referred as "the Consultant") to support Project Director (PD), Project Management Unit (PMU) under Selection for Individual Consultant (with Open market approach) following World Bank Procurement Regulation July 2016 (Revised in November 2017) for services to address the environmental issues under the project's DoE part.

The main objectives of this assignment are to:

- 1) oversee and coordinate environmental issues during project implementation;
- 2) ensure the quality of screenings/assessments and evaluate them;
- 3) monitor proper implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP);
- 4) consolidate information and report to the WB through PD;
- 5) manage contractual obligation of consulting firms of the assigned studies;
- 6) provide training to the contractor and field level staff, PMU, and relevant HQ level stakeholders, and assist contracted firms for preparation and provision of the training; and
- 7) provide technical advice to PD on ensuring environmental issues compliance.

3. Scope of Consultant's Assignment

- **Overall coordination and supervision on environmental activities**

While PD has overall responsibility of the project including environmental issues, the Consultant will be responsible to assist the PD for completing all activities/tasks, its quality control and overall coordination associated with environmental issues with officials, field based personnel, consulting firms, and other relevant stakeholders.

- **Review and endorsement of environmental assessment:** The Consultant shall review, provide feedback, and endorse environmental assessments/instruments/documents prepared by consulting firms and relevant stakeholders. For small scale restoration activities, the Consultant shall review the details of project designs and site plans and conduct site investigation if necessary to ensure the expected outcomes will be attained.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** The Consultant will be responsible to contribute to DOE's preparation and delivery of quarterly/half yearly environmental and social monitoring report to the World Bank as necessary. Where relevant, monitor implementation of ESCP and ESMPs and report to PD.
- **Ensure the regular and timely update in the ICT monitoring systems:** The Consultant will ensure the regular and timely update of the Environmental issues, points and reports in the ICT monitoring systems. S/he will be responsible to coordinate with ICT experts and confirm the above.
- **Coordination and follow-up of contractual obligation of firms:** The Consultant will support the PD in ensuring that the contractual obligations of consulting firms are duly met. This involves overseeing three concurrent studies and the development of knowledge management materials, necessitating continuous coordination and information sharing. The Consultant's responsibilities include reviewing reports submitted by the consulting firms and providing technical feedback on time; coordinating communication between the



PMU, consulting firms, and the World Bank; and monitoring and following up on the milestones and deliverables outlined in the firms' contracts

- **Training, dissemination, and outreach support:** The Consultant shall provide the necessary training related to environmental issues to raise awareness among FDMNs, host communities, and relevant stakeholders to support PMU to implement workshops and training. The Consultant will develop a communication strategy including dissemination of environmental conservation messages and results of studies implemented by firms. This includes identification of audience, dissemination modalities, and dissemination schedule, among others.
- **Public Consultation/GRM:** The Consultant shall coordinate consultation necessary during implementation of the project. The Consultant will coordinate with the Social Consultant and Communication Consultants while planning and conducting the consultations. Such consultation includes consultation during preparation on E&S instruments and construction and operation of each investment. S/he will ensure the quality of public consultation at the field level and will reflect the concern in the project implementation. The Consultant is also responsible to review the reports made by consulting firms and take necessary actions on the complaints received through the project GRM in coordination with PD.
- **Technical Advice to PD:** When necessary and required by PD, the Consultant shall provide technical advice related to environmental issues to PD. Such advice would include coordination with other governmental organizations, donors, handling grievances and enhancement of safeguard capacity of PMU, etc. The consultant shall also assist the PD on any other tasks requested.

4. Responsibilities of the DoE

The DoE will make experienced officials available and will ensure that the Consultant has access to all information required and documentation. The DoE will provide liaison and communicate with other Government Authorities if and when required for performing the job of Consultant and facilitate different meetings, focus group discussion and workshops based on initial planning. The DoE will provide logistic support for the filed visits.

Key Qualifications:

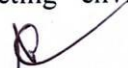
Academic Qualifications and Professional Experience of the Consultant:

a) Educational Qualification

- B.Sc./Master's in Environmental Engineering, Soil, Water and Environment, Geography & Environment, Biological Science, Geology, Forestry/Wildlife, or Environment Science or equivalent relevant degree is desirable; minimum Bachelor's in the above-mentioned subject is a must.

b) Experience

- At least 8 years of minimum experience as Civil/Environment Engineer, Environmental Professionals, Environmental Scientist, Forestry/ Wildlife expert, Environmental Planner or related field, and at least 5 years of experience as Environmental Consultant in conducting environmental impact and damage



assessments, strategic environmental assessment, ecological service valuation, or working experience in the Department of Environment is considered as extra preference.

- Experience must include at least one World Bank/ADB or other development partner funded project.
- Expertise in the project area and prior experience preparing Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMFs), Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), strategic environmental assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or in accordance with World Bank Safeguard Policy requirements is a plus.
- Age preferably is within 50 years old.
- Fluency in verbal and written communication skills in both Bangla and English.

5. Duration of the Assignment

The Consultant shall perform the Services for 3 months. However, the duration will depend on performance of the individual in this position.

6. Institutional Arrangement

The Consultant will be responsible to the PD, and will assist PD to ensure that all Environmental related reporting is completed on time to enable the Project to meet the deadlines of various GoB authorities and the World Bank. The Consultant will submit the field visit report frequently along with the recommendation for further improvement so that ESMP is properly followed in filed.

The PMU will provide necessary assistance to the Consultant in carrying out their activities under the project. The PMU will provide necessary office accommodation, computer, logistic services, consumables and other things or related services required for smooth execution of his services. The PMU will provide necessary assistance to carry field trips if necessary.

Reporting Obligations

1. Monthly Activity Report
2. Quarterly Summarized report
3. Semi-annul Environmental Monitoring report
4. Final Report
5. Any other reports required by the PD

6. Remuneration

The Consultant will be paid a negotiable consolidated remuneration inclusive of all applicable Taxes and VAT as per law of Bangladesh. Payment shall be made on assignment/monthly basis upon satisfactory performance output certified by the PD.


Md. Samsuzzaman Sarker
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Comprehensive Environmental Impact
and Damage Assessment of Rohingya
Influx in Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar
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